

St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

Pastoral Area of South & East Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald), 3 Willowfield Crescent, BT6 8HP.
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Website: www.saintanthony.co.uk

PUBLIC MASS TIMES—COVID-19 ERA (will be under assessment/review)

Saturday Evening at 6.30pm. (English Parish Mass)

Sunday Morning (in Polish): 9am, & 6:30pm. (English Parish Mass): 11.30am

Weekdays: Mon, Tues & Thurs at 9.30am. Fri at 7.00pm.

All English Masses on Facebook. Polish Weekday Masses: Tues & Thurs 7pm, Sat 9am

Confessions: By Arrangement. Baptisms: By Appointment

Local SVP Conference contact details: 028 90351561



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

And we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

[John 14:23-29]

He was so sad. The Risen Lord had to go away from earth.

Yet he loved them so much

that he could not lose them from his life.

He would place his Spirit deep within them.

And within us.

O Holy Spirit, teacher of all good,

remind us of what Jesus said and did, and who he is.

Let our hearts be untroubled and fearless as we take your

compassion everywhere it's needed in our world today:

death row, the unhoused, the climate crisis, Ukraine, and to

everyone suffering from bias.

Anne Osdieck

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Paul Riordan, Christine Burns, Johny Njanakkal (father of Fr Nideesh Varghese), Canon Robert Fullerton PE (Holy Rosary), Sr Paschal McMeel (Poor Clare, aunt of Bishop McKeown, month's mind celebrated in the Sacred Heart Church, Oldpark Road, Belfast at 12 noon on Saturday 4th June. Celebrant will be Bishop Donal McKeown.), Paddy Feeney (father of Fr Ciaran)

Anniversaries: Mairead Hughes, Robert Dunn Jnr, Robert Dunn Snr, Hugh & Rebecca Crilly (Sat 11th June at 6:30pm).

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your support. Weekly Collection (8 & 15 May) £1363.94. **DONATE** £

We would appreciate that if you send in a cheque to pay for a number of different donations, that you itemise what amount should go to each collection. Also include all empty envelopes in the one envelope

Relaxation of Covid-19 Related Regulations & Restrictions. The Diocese continues to strongly recommend a number of protective measures to ensure the safety and well-being of all.

1. **Face Coverings:** the Diocese strongly recommends that face coverings continue to be worn at all times in the church.

2. **Hand Sanitizers:** will continue to be provided at the entrances. Hand sanitizing when entering the church is strongly recommended.

3. **Social Distancing:** While we no longer have to observe social distancing in the church, we need to be distance aware, especially for the vulnerable present.

4. **Communion in the hand** should remain the norm.

5. **At the Spring 2022 general meeting of the Irish Episcopal Conference, it has been decided that "from Easter Sunday, the obligation on the Faithful to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation is restored." Though for anyone who is sick or vulnerable, the obligation does not apply**

Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2022. To return your donation we would ask that you convert any coins to notes, (you can do so e.g. by taking the coinage to Tesco at Newtownbreda and place coins into the coin counting machine, and redeeming the voucher amount at customer services) and place into the envelope provided and return **BY SUNDAY 22nd MAY** after which you can still send your donation to Trócaire, 50 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD. T. +44 (0)28 9080 8030.

Trócaire Gala Concert at Clonard Monastery in Belfast at 7.30pm on Friday 20th May 2022 (doors will open at 6.30pm). Performers: Margaret Keys, The Priests and St Dominic's Girls School Choir and MC, Gerry Kelly. This event will support Trócaire's work in countries around the world, including projects in Zimbabwe which is the focus of this year's Lenten Appeal. Tickets will be available at a later date on a first come, first served basis and we will contact you again to let you know how to book them. Tickets will be free but there will be an option to make a donation on the night with all donations being matched as part of UK Aid Match funding in support of the Lent Appeal.

QUB Chaplaincy Golden Jubilee Ball. The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University will celebrate its Golden Jubilee with a Gala Ball in Belfast City Hall, to

take place on Friday 10 June at 7pm. A drinks reception will be followed by a four-course dinner with wine, and dancing to live band MOJO. The evening promises to be the highlight of this year's social calendar, giving Queen's Chaplaincy alumni, across generations, a wonderful opportunity to catch up and share memories with old friends. Tickets are priced at £80 (plus online booking fee) and can be secured by following this link:

<https://first.co/event/catholic-chaplaincy-qub-golden-gala-tickets-384378624>

There is a limited number of tickets available for current students at the subsidised rate of £50 and these can be reserved by contacting Chaplaincy directly at catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk. Dress Code: Black Tie

First Confession / Holy Communion. Congratulations to Lough View Integrated PS who received First Communion on Sat 7th May. Harding Memorial Integrated PS celebrated First Confession on Mon 9th May, and will celebrate First Holy Communion on Sat 11th June at 1pm. The Polish Community will celebrate First Holy Communion on Sat 4th June at 10am. Keep them all in your prayers.

National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock, on Saturday 18th June (Corpus Christi weekend) leaving Belfast City Centre at 6.15 am. Cost £22, bring a packed lunch. Contact Harriet 07812098991 or Maureen 07745093530 to inquire or book a seat. For more information click on the link below. www.eucharisticadoration.ie

The All Ireland Rosary Rally will take place in Knock on Saturday 4th June from 1.30 pm. The main celebrant will be Archbishop Okolo, Papal Nuncio to Ireland. Homilist: Bishop Michael Duignan. Rosary Talk: Fr. Marius O'Reilly. If interested in travelling by coach, contact Paddy 07979501228 or Siobhán 07857251422 by text anytime or call after 5pm.

A Prayer by Telephone. The Sisters of Mercy "Bethany" 34 Point Road, Dundalk. Welcome any person who may wish to request prayer, especially during these difficult times. All requests are confidential. Tel: 00353429331602 9am - 9pm Daily. One of the sisters will be happy to Listen and Pray with you

ACCORD Facilitators Training Programme. We are now recruiting volunteer facilitators, supporting couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage and future family life. Formal training provided in presenting and facilitating our Marriage Preparation Courses. If interested please contact Brenda on 028 90233002 or email info@accordni.com, www.accordni.com

The Wild Goose - a parish programme from Easter to Pentecost. The Wild Goose is a Celtic name for the Holy Spirit. Would you like to draw closer to the Holy Spirit and to the power and influence of the Holy Spirit in your life? Franciscan Priest, Fr Dave Pivonka, will give a talk each week on different aspects of the Holy Spirit, in 4 incredible video presentations

Following the video, we will have a discussion in small groups around the theme of the presentation each week. Please choose ONE of the two options below and email or text, to register your interest, to: n.dunn@downandconnor.org / 07879 498131

(1) **Thursday 12th May via ZOOM, 8.00pm - 9.00pm** (concluding Thursday 2nd June)

(2) **Friday 13th May IN-PERSON, 10.00am - 11.00am,** in the Inna Room, St Colmcille's Parish Hall, starting with refreshments (concluding Friday 3rd June)

"Pause for Hope". This is an ecumenical service for all affected by cancer being held in St Ann's Cathedral, Belfast, this Sunday 15th May at 3.00pm to which parishioners are cordially invited to attend. Come & sing with Sing for Life & The Priests. Pray together, Light a candle, Have a cuppa. All are welcome and it's free! No tickets required.

Benburb Priory are now offering several school retreats, focused on topics including: Spiritual Disciplines (Prayer, Christian meditation, simplicity, etc), Christian Identity in the 21st Century, Christian Care for the Environment, And more... Please see our new website: www.benburbpriory.com

"The Morning Star Shines On Us" - Four Reflective Wednesday afternoon sessions with Sr Magdalen Lawler SND hosted by Drumalis via Zoom in June (8, 15, 22 & 29 June from 2 pm - 3.30 pm). Sr Magdalen Lawler invites us to join her via Zoom for four afternoons in June as she reflects on the paintings of Sieger Koder. The suggested offering to attend the series is £40 per person. To register, please email katrina@drumalis.co.uk or phone 028 28272196/28276455 (Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5 pm)

The Pray for Life Novena is an invitation to join thousands of people across Ireland to pray for the protection of human life, from Monday 23 May to the Feast of the Visitation on 31 May 2022. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life in Ireland. Visit www.prayforlife.ie for the daily novena prayers. This is an initiative of the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Parish Safeguarding. Can you please ensure that all Children and Vulnerable Adults are accompanied at all times when entering the Sacristy / Toilet facilities. If you have any queries regarding the Safeguarding Policy please contact a member of the Parish Safeguarding Committee. Many Thanks, Fr Henry McCann PP.



HOW CLOSE IS OUR GOD!

Many years ago this gospel passage totally changed my understanding of prayer. I was in my first year with the Augustinians at the time. As a teenager, I believed that when I prayed I was praying to a God who was on my side, but he was far away, up in heaven. Prayer was a kind of long-distance communication. Now I heard that when we love God, God comes to us and makes a home within

us. 'If anyone loves me, ... my Father will love them and we shall come to them and make our home with them.'

I was blown away by the idea that God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, was that close to me. I can remember walking around the grounds of the novitiate chatting happily to my new best friend, a friend who wasn't just walking along beside me but had chosen to make his home within me. WOW!

I regard that insight as one of the great blessings of my novitiate year, and that sense of the closeness of God

Next Sunday's Readings



Acts 1:1-11

Psalms 46:2-3, 6-9

Ephesians 1:17-23

Luke 24:46-53

is something that stays with me now and gives me hope, encouragement and life. Is it not true that a key element in the mission of Jesus was to encourage us to trust in the presence of a loving God with us? In the nativity stories we are told he would be called 'Emmanuel', a name which means 'God is with us'. Throughout his life he gave witness to a life of trust in God with him. He called God 'Father' and taught us to do the same thing. Before he died, he promised to be with his disciples until the end of time. He encouraged them to meet regularly and celebrate Eucharist to remember this promise.

Knowing that the Father was with him gave Jesus energy and enthusiasm

for his mission, and sustained him in times of difficulty.

God with us helps us on our journey also. Our Gospel today reminds us of some of the blessings that come to us from our faith in God with us. We will get the guidance of the Spirit and experience a peace that the world cannot give. Faith in God is not a quick-fix remedy for all our troubles. We will still have the problems that go with being a finite human being living with others who are similarly limited. Yet a realisation that we are not on our own, that God is with us in all circumstances can help us to deal with problems from a new perspective.

- John Byrne

Reflection

What difference does it make for you when you have the help of another in a time of difficulty?

Lesson

The God of love is always with us; we are never on our own.

Prayer

Holy Spirit of God, remind us of all that Jesus said to us so that we may experience in our lives the peace that he promises, a peace that the world cannot give.



This Week (23–29 May)

- 23 M** St William of Rochester
- 24 T** St Vincent de Lerins, monk
- 25 W** Saint Gregory VII, Pope
- 26 T** St Philip Neri, priest
- 27 F** St Augustine of Canterbury, bishop
- 28 S** St Germanus of Paris, bishop
- 29 S** ASCENSION OF THE LORD

